THE CHINESE SETTLEMENT IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

INFORMATION GATHERED BY WILLIAM ROOP AND KATHERINE FLYNN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE SERVICE

PRESENTED TO THE CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA JUNE 1992

The first prominent Overseas Chinese in San Luis Obispo County was Wong On, known as Ah Louis or Ah Luis. In 1870 Ah Louis first settled in San Luis Obispo. He opened a store at the corner of Chorro and Palm Streets, diagonally across from the old Franciscan Mission. Ah Louis' Store, still managed by his son Howard Louis, was the first structure in what became San Luis Obispo's Chinatown. During the 1870's the first wooden shanties were constructed along Palm Street. By 1900 the community occupied both sides of Palm Street between Chorro and Morro Streets.

Unlike many other Chinese communities in California, the San Luis Obispo Chinatown was never burned or destroyed during the anti-Chinese upheavals of the late 19th century. This was in large part due to the actions of Ah Louis who became very active in community affairs, thus insuring that the Overseas Chinese community of San Luis Obispo grew and prospered during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Because of his identification as a member of the local business community, and not just the Chinese business community; and because of his well known participation in civic improvement projects, the Overseas Chinese community of San Luis Obispo does not appear to have suffered as badly from the blatant racism commonly seen in other parts of the state. As a contractor, Ah Louis competed for construction projects throughout the area. He also engaged in farming, raising and selling a large variety of vegetables to the community. The majority of the Chinese community was employed by Ah Louis in one or another of these endeavors.

During the early years of the 20th century, the San Luis Obispo community prospered as the Chinese population grew. The success of Ah Louis' enterprises provided employment opportunities that attracted many Chinese to the area.

The depression of the 1930's reversed the growth of the community. The decline was rapid over the decade, and made complete by World War II. This is a pattern that can be seen in small Chinese communities throughout California at the time.

In 1950 the City of San Luis Obispo condemned most of the western side of the block for a parking lot. The buildings were removed, and the block graded relatively level. For many years the area was left unpaved, with the occasional oiling to reduce dust. In the 1960's the lot was paved, trees were planted, and the area landscaped.

In 1987 a new parking garage was constructed to replace the now inadequate parking lot. Knowing that this was the site of San Luis Obispo's Chinatown for many years, the City

---

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Archaeological Resource Service, 1250 Holm road, Suite C,
Petaluma, CA, 94954. TELEPHONE: (707) 762-2573

contracted with Archaeological Resource Service to remove any encountered archaeological features duting grading and costruction. During the excavation of Chinese features, it became apparent that earlier, Spanish period deposits lay under the Chinese associated materials. The excavation plan was modified to include these additional features, essentially tripling the magnitude of the job to be undertaken.

The City of San Luis Obispo has left an opening through the floor of the new parking garage, roofed it over with plexiglass, and made a permanent exhibit of some of the discoveries. It is now possible to look down through the floor of the parking garage and see the foundation of the Spanish adobe, part of the interior floor of the adobe, and a large deposit of Chinese artifacts overlying the Spanish materials.

In order to understand the significance of the discovered archaeological remains, it is necessary to place the artifacts and features in a historical context. The following entries have not been chosen to reflect a complete history of San Luis Obispo, but rather to emphasize events that are potentially related to the discoveries made under the Palm Street Parking Garage.

Prior to the establishment of the Mission at San Luis Obispo, the dominant culture of the region was that of the Chumash. These people occupied the San Luis Obispo area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. There is some indication of prehistoric settlement in the northerly end of the project area, but no definitive information came to light during the archaeological project or the parking lot construction. The entire northern half of the project area had been deeply disturbed and recompacted when the parking lot was originally constructed in the 1950's, or when it was paved in the 1970's. This process mixed the historic features that had been present into a mass of tiny fragments of animal bone, broken glass, metal, and occasional recognizable artifacts.

The earliest historic era use of the block occurred in the Mission period, prior to 1800. By the turn of the nineteenth century, the southerly half of the block may have held neophyte Indian housing. By 1830 the Mission had abandoned many of the buildings on the edge of the complex. Many of the buildings in poor repair collapsed in the earthquake of 1830, probably including the discovered structural remains. It is presently undetermined when the building fell out of use, although sometime in the 1820's is highly likely.

By 1860 the building remains were no longer recognizable, having melted into a low mound towards the southerly end of the block. This mound formed a relatively flat area in the otherwise sloping ground. This flattened area appears to have attracted settlement again when the Chinese community began to develop in the 1870's.

Between about 1870 and 1950, the project area contained the San Luis Obispo Chinatown. This vibrant community center served as a focus to the Overseas Chinese inhabitants of San Luis Obispo County. Chinatown contained stores that sold food, utensils, dishwares, clothing, medicines and other goods from China; restaurants that served foods from home, and other retail service establishments that helped individuals maintain Chinese customs and lifestyles.

The following time line has been assembled to establish a framework for viewing the results of the archaeological excavation. Facts pertinent to the growth and welfare of the Chinese community have been gathered, as well as information on the growth development, and decline of the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. These data have been placed in context by entries demonstrating the general flow of California history.

THE SPANISH ERA

1772, August 01, San Luis Obispo
Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, fifth Franciscan Mission in California, founded by Junipero Serra. The Mission was named for Saint Louis, Bishop of Toulouse, France. The Mission is now registered as State Historic Landmark No. 325.

1772, October 01, San Luis Obispo
First baptism at the mission. A sick Indian child named Francisco Maria by the priest. It was common practice to rename Indians when they were baptised. The child, extremely ill when brought to the mission, died three days later (Kocher 1972).

1773, October, San Luis Obispo
Fr. Palou arrives at the mission with livestock and supplies. He notes a church, priest's residence, and a granary. A separate structure housed the soldiers. Palou attributed the survival of the mission over the first year to the local Chumash who brought venison and wild seeds to exchange for beads and sugar (Kocher 1972).

1776, March 03, San Luis Obispo
Juan Bautista de Anza stops for one day at the Mission with about 200 settlers, 325 cattle, 695 horses and mules, and all of their baggage. Fr. Font, accompanying the settlers, said of the structures of the Mission: "...though neatly constructed, are of tules and palisades and filled with adobe, because there are no means to build them in any other way" (Kocher 1972).

1776, November 29, Mission San Luis Obispo
Tulare Indians burn the Mission buildings. Only the granary and the church were saved. The fire started in the dry tule used for roofing material and quickly spread throughout the compound (Englehardt 1963; Kocher 1972).

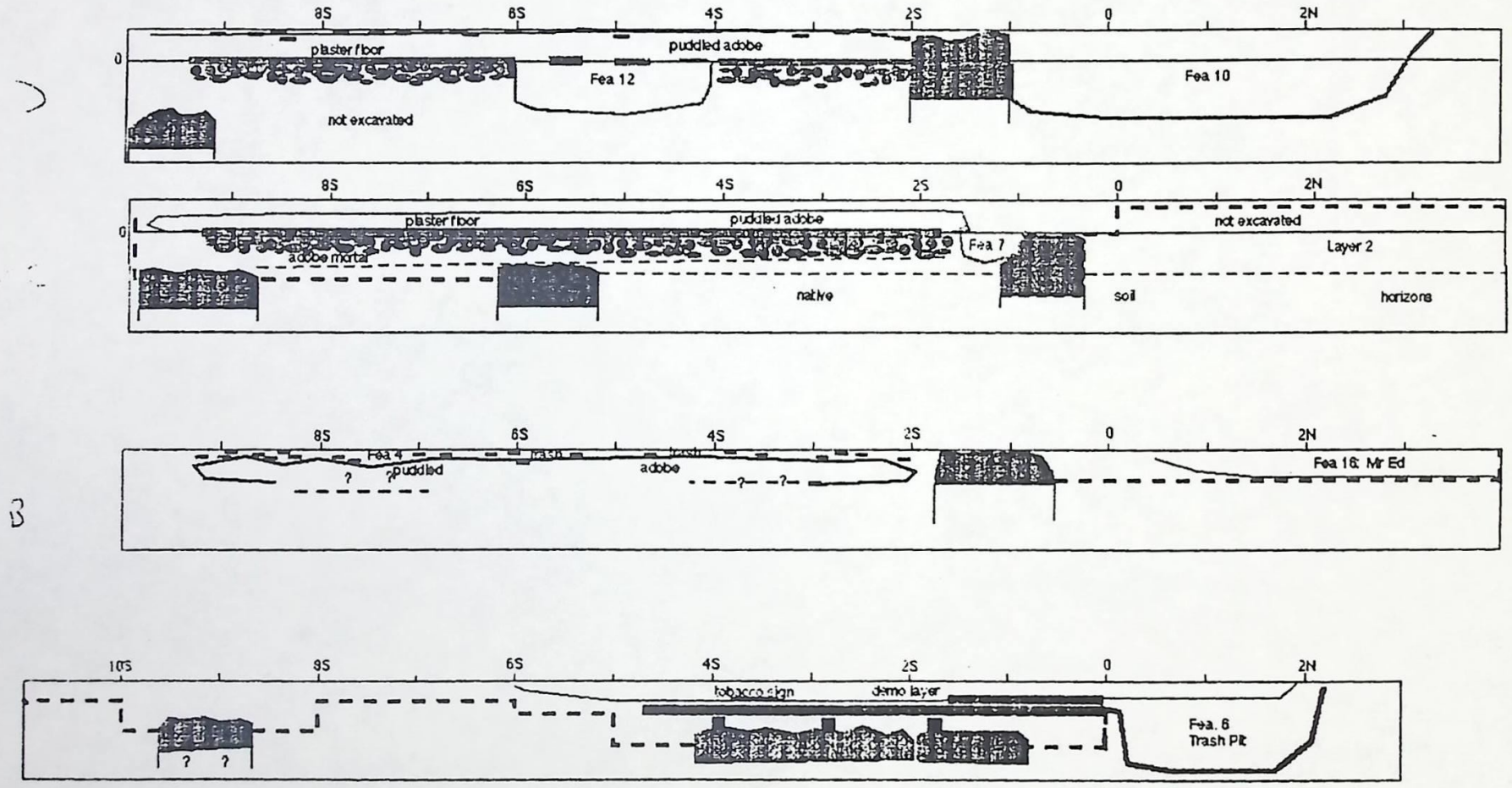
1782, Mission San Luis Obispo
A fire of unknown origin destroyed a large part of the Mission compound and a large amount of stored maize (Kocher 1972).

1786, December 04, Santa Barbara
Mission Santa Barbara founded (Kocher 1972).

1789, December 09, San Luis Obispo
Fr. Cavaller, who was at San Luis Obispo since its founding in 1772, dies at the age of 49. At his death, the Mission had 580 resident converts, harvested 1000 fanegas of wheat, 400-500 fanegas of corn, and about 50 fanegas of beans per year, and had over 3000 cattle, 3000 sheep, 200 goats, about 200 hogs, over 200 horses and 30 mules. Fr. Miguel Giribet became the senior priest at San Luis Obispo (Kocher 1972).

1794, Mission San Luis Obispo
Roof tiles used for the first time at this Mission. All new buildings after this year are thought to have been tile roofed (Kocher 1972). This is the earliest likely date for the construction of the Mission structure found under the Palm Street Parking Garage. The remains contained thousands of fragments of roof tile in a collapsed layer over the rest of the structural deposit.

1794, San Luis Obispo
15 to 20 Neophyte Indians from San Luis Obispo and La Purisima Concepcion arrested, together with some Non Mission Indians, for trying to foment revolt (Kocher 1972).


8S
6S
4S
2S
0
2N
plaster floor
puddled adobe
Fea 12
Fea 10
not excavated
plaster floor
puddled adobe
not excavated
adobe mortar
Fea 7
Layer 2
native
soil
horizons
Fea 4
trash
trash
?puddled
adobe
Fea 16: Mr Ed
10S
tobacco sign
demo layer
Fea. 6
Trash Pit

1797, July 25, San Miguel
Mission San Miguel founded by Fr. Lassuen (Hoover et. al 1966).

1812, San Luis Obispo
During this year, the interior walls of the Church were replastered, the priests quarters received new wooden ceilings, and several buildings on the quadrangle were reroofed with tiles. There was no damage to the Mission from the earthquake that severely damaged three other Missions to the south (Kocher 1972).

1818, November 22, Monterey
Hyppolite Bouchard, an Argentine Admiral in the revolt against Spanish authority, lands at Monterey and sacks the Presidio (Kocher 1972).

1820, September 10, Santa Barbara
New church dedicated. This followed the destruction of the original church in an earthquake in 1812.

MEXICAN ERA

1822, April 11, Monterey
Allegiance to Mexico declared at Monterey, Capitol of Alta California. Spanish rule in California ends (Chapman 1926).

1824, February 21, Santa Barbara, Santa Ines & La Purisima
Chumash Revolt begins. Neophytes from San Luis Obispo did not take part in the revolt, which lasted for over a month (Kocher 1972).

1830, San Luis Obispo
An earthquake damaged many buildings at the Mission. The front of the Mission church had to be removed. The hospital and a large part of the neophyte village were in ruins, while the remainder of the village was damaged (Kocher 1972). This event marks the likely termination of use of the building remains found in the project area.

1830, December, San Luis Obispo
Fr. Gil y Taboada takes over responsibility for the Mission. The first order of business is to repair damage from the earthquake (Kocher 1972).

1834, August 09, Monterey
Governor Figueroa, acting under instruction of the Congress in Mexico City, issues "Reglamento Provisional para la secularizacion de la Misiones de la Alta California, 9 de Agosto, 1834". This act secularized the Franciscan Missions of California. The act declared the Mission lands to be the property of the Government of Mexico, and subject to the laws of Mexico (Chapman 1926).

1835, October, San Luis Obispo
Secularization comes to San Luis Obispo. Manuel Casarin arrives to take possession of the Mission and complete an inventory of the Mission property (Kocher 1972).

1836, November 7, Monterey
Alvarado declares "The free and sovereign State of California", until Mexico returns to the Constitution of 1824 (Chapman 1926).

1837, July, Monterey
Alvarado reverses his declaration of the previous November (Chapman 1926).

1842, La Purisima
Fr. Abella, aged 78, the last Franciscan at San Luis Obispo, retired to La Purisima, where he died a short time later (Kocher 1972).

1842, August 29, Nanking, China
Treaty of Nanking between Britain and China signed. This treaty opened Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Nongpo, and Shangai to British trade. Additionally, Hong Kong was ceded to the British (Harrison 1967).

1842, October 18, Monterey
Part of the United States Navy's Pacific Squadron, frigate United States and sloop Cyane, Commodore Thomas ap Catsby Jones, flag officer, anchors in Monterey harbor (Chapman 1926).

1842, October 19, Monterey
Commodore Jones demands the surrender of Monterey in the mistaken belief that a state of war exists with Mexico (Chapman 1926).

1842, October 20, Monterey
Commodore Jones raises the American flag at Monterey. He declared California to be a possession of the United States (Chapman 1926).

1842, October 21, Monterey
Commodore Jones lowered the American flag at Monterey, raised the Mexican flag and saluted it. He restored the status quo, apologized, and left (Chapman 1926).

1844, February, China
Treaty of Wanghia negotiated by Caleb Cushing. This granted "most favored nation" status to the United States, and opened Canton, Foochow, Nongpo, and Shangai to U.S. trade (Harrison 1967).

CALIFORNIAN ERA

1844, November, Alta California
Juan Bautista Alvarado and Jose Castro lead a revolt of Californios against Governor Micheltorena, representing the Mexican Government.

1845, February 20, Cahuenga Pass
The battle of Cahuenga Pass begins.

1845, February 21, Cahuenga Pass
The battle of Cahuenga Pass ends. Governor Micheltorena capitulated. This was the end of Mexican rule in California (Chapman 1926). From this point until the consolidation of American authority, California was in a rather anarchistic state, with no single, central authority.

AMERICAN ERA

1846, June 14, Sonoma
Bear Flag Rebellion occurred at the Sonoma (Revere 1849).

1846, July 2, Monterey
Commodore John Sloat anchors in Monterey harbor (Bean 1968).

1846, July 7, Monterey
Commodore Sloat raises the American flag at Monterey. This marks the beginning of American rule. Unlike the blunder of Commodore Jones in 1842, Commodore Sloat acted under orders, in keeping with the goals of his government (Chapman 1926).

1846, July 9, Sonoma
Lieutenant John Warren Revere, U.S.N., raises the American flag at Sonoma, ending the so-called "California Republic" (Chapman 1926).

1846, December 6, San Pascual
Battle of San Pascual, near the present town of Escondido, San Diego County. This was the bloodiest battle of the Mexican War in California. Although suffering the heaviest losses, American forces held the field. Exactly who won the battle is subject to dispute (Chapman 1926).

1846, December 14, San Luis Obispo
John Charles Fremont enters San Luis Obispo. He stayed three days. Fremont's campsite is reported to have been in the ruined buildings of the Mission (Kocher 1972). This location is thought to be in the vicinity of the Copeland building, the public library, or the Pacific Telephone building, in the vicinity of Morro Street between Palm and Mill Streets.

1847, January 13, Alta California
End of hostilities between Californios and U.S. troops in California (Chapman 1926). Although the war with Mexico did not end officially end for several weeks, all major Mexican (actually native Californian) forces agreed to end hostilities by this date.

1848, January 24, Sutter's Mill
James W. Marshall discovers gold at Sutter's Mill near the present town of Coloma (Bean 1968).

1848, February 2, Guadalupe Hidalgo
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed between Mexico and the United States. California, with other lands, ceded to the United States. Mexican property rights in the ceded territories to be respected (Bean 1968).

1848, May, Washington D.C.
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ratified by Congress (Bean 1968). This ended the war with Mexico and, among other things, guaranteed recognition of Mexican land titles.

1848, August 6, California
News of the ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo reaches California (Bean 1968).

1849, Spring, San Francisco
California Gold Rush begins. "Argonauts" begin to enter California in large numbers (Bean 1968).

1849, November 13, California
State constitution ratified by popular vote, and the first state officials elected. Peter H. Burnett elected Governor, John McDougal elected Coloma Governor. From this point forward California conducted herself as though statehood had already been achieved (Bean 1968).

1849, December 15, San Jose
First meeting of the California State Legislature convened in San Jose. In joint session, William Gwinn and John Fremont were elected Senators. This meeting became famous as the "Legislature of a Thousand Drinks" (Bean 1968).

1850, China
Tai Ping Rebellion begins. The economy of China was severely disrupted throughout the 14 years the rebellion continued. The southern provinces, particularly Quangdong, homeland to the majority of Overseas Chinese in America, were particularly hard hit (Wong 1987).

1850, February 18, San Jose
San Luis Obispo County formed as one of the original 27 counties of California. San Luis Obispo was named as the County Seat (Coy 1923).

1850, September 09, Washington D.C.
Admission Day. California officially became the 31st State in the Union. In fact California had been administering itself as though it were a State for about one year at this time (Bean 1968).

1851, August, San Luis Obispo
A new tax of $12.00 per month on gambling establishments. $92.50 was collected in September, the first month of enforcement (Angel 1883).

1853, San Francisco
San Luis Obispo claims status as a pueblo, entitling them to lands of four square leagues (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1853, February 4, Benecia
Benecia named as the "permanent seat of government" in California by act of the state legislature (Bancroft 1888).

1854, San Francisco
The claim of San Luis Obispo to status as a pueblo is rejected by the lands commission (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1854, March 1, Sacramento
The State Legislature meets in Sacramento, effectively shifting the seat of government in California. The Capitol has been in Sacramento ever since (Bean 1968).

1854, Spring, New Haven, Connecticut
Yung Wing, the first Chinese to complete a course of study at an American University, graduated from Yale. On accepting his diploma he stated: I shall bear it for China and the Chinese and regard it...as an encouragement to (them) to come out and try great possibilities and Western Literature, Science and Religion. (McCunn 1988).

1855, Avila, San Luis Obispo County
First wharf erected on San Luis Obispo Bay. The wharf was built by Barkley Clements and Charles T. Rommey at Fossil Point near Avila. It consisted of a warehouse, a wharf, and a derrick to lift goods and people up the bluff face. The place was known as "Cave Landing" (Best 1981).

1859, San Luis Obispo
Town of San luis Obispo organized under state law (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1860, Washington D.C.
U.S. Tenth Census for San Luis Obispo County lists 1621 Whites, 0 Chinese (Sandmeyer 1939:19).

1861, San Francisco
Wong On, married name Ark Foon, later known as Ah Louis, arrives from China at the age of 21. It is known that he left for the California and Oregon gold fields about this time, but very little specific information is available (Wong 1987).

1861, April 12, Charleston, South Carolina
Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumpter in Charleston Harbor. This opened hostilities in the Civil War.

1864, San Simeon
Captain Joseph Clark establishes a whaling station at San Simeon (Angel 1883).

1864, China
Tai Ping Rebellion ends. The end of this long and devestating war improved the economic situation in China, reducing the flow of emmigrants (Wong 1987).

1865, Central California
Relatively normal rainfall ends a disastrous three year drought. In the years of drought, 1862-1864, virtually all of the mission bred cattle herds died. estimates are that 300,000 head of cattle and 100,000 sheep (Krieger 1988).

1865, April 09, Appomatox Courthouse, Virginia
General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the Civil War.

1867, Washington D.C.
The town of San Luis Obispo receives the right to 640 acres of land by an act of Congress (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1868, China
Burlingame Treaty ratified. This agreement recognized the right of individuals to freely travel between China and the United States, and the reciprocity of priveleges, immunities, and exemptions between citizens of China and the United States in living or traveling in both countries (Nee 1973).

1868, China
Wong On, known as Ah Louis, returns to his native village of Loong On Ook Gong in China for a six month stay (Wong 1987).

1868, San Luis Obispo
Ah Louis forms an association with Harford, Beebe and Schwarz to supply labor for construction work (Krieger 1988).

1869, May, United States
The current issue of "Hide and Leather Interest" a manufacturer's journal, urges the creation of a national organization to import foreign laborers, particularly Chinese, as strikebreakers (McCunn 1988).

1869, August 30, Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo County
The iron bark Harlech Castle struck a rock and was wrecked at Piedras Blancas.

1869, September, Avila, San Luis Obispo County
Peoples Wharf opened for business. This was the first wharf in San Luis Obispo County that did not require lighters to unload oceangoing ships (Best 1981).

1869, October 25, San Luis Obispo County
First record of Chinese in San Luis Obispo County. The San Luis Obispo Tribune reports that several Chinese fishermen bound for San Luis Obispo were rescued from the steamer Sierra Nevada (Ochs 1970:6). Sierra Nevada listed as a steamer plying between San Francisco and San Luis Obispo in 1869 (Angel 1883). The steamer was wrecked on the rocks in 1869.

1870, January 15, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Tribune reported the arrival of three Chinese in San Luis Obispo (Ochs 1970). Ah Luis was reported to be working as a cook in the French Hotel in San Luis Obispo. "Ah Luis" was the earliest recorded spelling of the name adopted by Wong On, who emigrated from the South China village of Loong On Ook Gong about 1860. The name was later modified to Ah Louis (Leonard 1981). Ah Louis said that his constant asthma did not bother him here, so he stayed rather than continue to southern California (Wong 1987).

1870, San Luis Obispo County
First county road from San Luis Obispo to San Simeon constructed this year. Chinese laborers contracted for through Ah Louis did the major construction (Krieger 1988).

1871, Harford Landing, San Luis Obispo County
Ah Luis began working at the "Ocean House", Harford Landing. During this tenure (1871-1873), Ah Luis was asked by John Harford to obtain Chinese laborers to build a road between Harford Landing and Avila. This is likely the start of Ah Luis career as a contractor of Chinese labor (Leonard 1981).

1871, San Luis Obispo
The Bank of San Luis Obispo organized. This was the first bank in the county. The original officers were: C.H. Phillips, H.M. Warden, E.W. Steele, George Steele, P.W. Murphy, J.P. Andrews, Hugh Isom, D.W. James, M. Gilbert, John Harford, W.L Beebee, James H. Goodman, and I.G. Wickersham (Morrison and Haydon, 1917).

1871, San Luis Obispo
City officials receive a certificate of purchase from the United States Land Office for the town site, a total of 552.65 acres. This cleared land titles throughout the community (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1871, Shanghai, China
After 17 years of effort, Yung Wing receives financial support for the Chinese Educational Mission. For the next 4years, a detachment of 30 students were sent to New England to study. Each group was to stay 15 years, returning prior to age 30. Promising students were also to be sent to West Point and Annapolis (McCunn 1988).

1872, San Luis Obispo
Dr. Hays, C.W. Dana, and M. A. Benrino obtained a franchise to erect water works (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1872, November 01, Salinas, Monterey County
The Southern Pacific railroad arrives at Salinas.

1872, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis establishes the first brickyard in San Luis Obispo County. Bricks from this yard were used in the first county courthouse, his store, the Andrews Block, Sinsheimer Building, Hall of Records, Southern Pacific Roundhouse and the Terminal. The brickyard was located near the corner of Center and Lincoln streets (Leonard 1981). Ah Louis found that the clay there was the

best available for bricks, and water was plentiful from Steiner Creek. Both Chinese and Whites were employed in the yard (Ochs 1970, Wong 1987).

1872, October 12, San Luis Obispo
First mention of "Chinatown" on Palm Street between Chorro and Moro in the San Luis Obispo Tribune (Ochs 1970).

1873, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis made arrangements to bring 160 Chinese laborers from San Francisco (Leonard 1981).

1873, United States
"Panic of 1873", a severe economic depression, settles in.

1873, San Luis Obispo
A.M. Loomis and Alfred Walker bought the franchise to erect water works and began construction. A small reservoir was built on Murray Hill, about a mile and a half north of town. Water was brought in from a wooden flume from the upper San Luis Creek (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1873, August 12, Soledad, Monterey County
The Southern Pacific railroad reached Soledad, where it remained for several years (Nicholson 1980).

1874, Cambria, San Luis Obispo County ?
Chinese reported working in the Santa Cruz quicksilver mine (Leonard 1971).

1874, San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo Water Company organized. The organizers were: P.W. Murphy, A.M. Loomis, E.W. Steele, C.H. Phillips, and Judge Venable (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1874, March 02, Sacramento
Senator William J. Graves introduces legislation for the construction of the San Luis Obispo & Santa Margarita Valley Railroad (Krieger 1988).

1874 July 25, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Tribune reports 40 Chinese living in San Luis Obispo (Leonard 1981).

1874 November, San Luis Obispo
Water first flowed through the sheet metal pipes of the San Luis Obispo WaterCompany (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1874, November 15, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis establishes his original store, a wooden building on the northwest corner of Palm and Chorro to provide for the needs of his contract laborers (Leonard 1981). The 25' by 50' lot was rented for $5.00 per month. The first lot agreement was signed by Ah Louis and Gee Wong Lung (Wong 1987).

1875, San Luis Obispo County
Starting in 1874 and finishing in 1876, Chinese workers were employed to build the railroad from Avila to San Luis Obispo. They were employed at this through the entire year of 1875 (Leonard 1981).

1875, June 26, San Luis Obispo
An advertisement appeared in the San Luis Obispo Tribune on this date (Leonard 1981; Wong 1987:8):

AH LUIS
LABOR AGENCY
Chinese Labor Contracted on Short Notice
OFFICE ON PALM STREET

1875, August 22, San Luis Obispo
A prominent Chinese, known to the white community as "Captain Jack" was murdered in his home on Palm Street. Ah Sing, Ah Him, Ah You, and Ah Kim were convicted of the crime, but the verdict was overturned (Leonard 1981).

1876, San Luis Obispo County
Contracts being let by San Luis Obispo County for road repair include three to H. Lemon & H. Wing Company, these are: 1) Contract for Cuesta Road, 2) Contract for part of Arroyo Grande-huasna Road, 3) Contract for part of Arroyo Grande-Huasna Road. Chinese workers for these projects were obtained through Ah Luis, Labor Contractor.

1876, San Luis Obispo County
New road over Cuesta Grade begun. Chinese laborers contracted for through Ah Louis did the construction (Krieger 1988).

1876, San Luis Obispo
By this time the town had organized a fire company, gas and water works were installed, and bridges existed on Mill, Court, Morro, Chorro, Nipomo, and Broad Streets (Morrison and Haydon, 1917).

1876, San Luis Obispo
The first advertisements against Chinese laundries appear in local newspapers (Ochs 1970).

1876, San Luis Obispo
A new reservoir with a capacity of 1,250,000 gallons was built on San Luis Obispo Creek (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1876, March 20, San Luis Obispo
City of San Luis Obispo incorporated (Hoover et. al. 1966).

1876, August 17, San Luis Obispo County
First railroad run between San Luis Obispo and the wharf at San Luis Bay (Krieger 1988).

1876, December 11, San Luis Obispo County
First rail service from San Luis Obispo to the terminus of the new 1500 ft. wharf at San Luis Bay (Krieger 1988).

1876, December 30, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune summarizes the year. The harvest was abundant. New buildings in San Luis Obispo include: L. Lasar's Store of brick with an iron front, two stories tall; Quintana's Store, the Convent School, a balcony on the Cosmopolitan Hotel, the Court School, the Pacific Coast Railway and its depot. A new road over Cuesta Pass, and many new roads and bridges throughout the county were also built (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1877, San Luis Obispo County
New county road over Cuesta Grade completed (Krieger 1988).

1877, February, San Jose
The Anti-Chinese organization and the Workingman's Party of San Jose urge a boycott of all goods from China (Ochs 1970).

1877, October 10, San Luis Obispo
An article in the San Luis Obispo Tribune notes a percapita tax has been proposed on the disinterment of Chinese remains in San Luis Obispo county. The purpose of this ordinance was to tax the Chinese practice of shipping human remains back to China for permanent burial. This ordinance apparently never passed the Board of Supervisors (Ochs 1970).

1878, March, San Luis Obispo
The Workingmans Party of San Luis Obispo publicly sympathises with Denis Kearney and the Anti Chinese movement. The San Luis Obispo Tribune reports that: It will doubtless be an interesting meeting as we are informed that the subject of the discourse of one of the speakers is to be 'John Must Go' (Ochs 1970:41).

1879, October, San Luis Obispo
New City Hall building begun. The structure included city offices, a jail, and fire apparatus in the basement (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1880, January 1, San Luis Obispo County
An ordinance to remove Chinese wash-houses from Higuera Street becomes law (Leonard 1981).

1881, San Luis Obispo County
Chinese employed in grading right-of-way and laying track for narrow gauge railway between San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande (Leonard 1981).

1881, San Luis Obispo
A deed from Mariano Lazcano to Ah Luis was recorded in County Deed Book N., Page 77. The land was located on the north east corner of Chorro and Palm. Price was $800.00. This is the earliest known deed to Ah Luis in San Luis Obispo County.

1881, New Haven, Connecticut
The Chinese Educational Mission, headed by Yung Wing, is recalled to China by the Chinese government (McCunn 1988).

1882, La Panza, San Luis Obispo County
Chinese gold miners were reported in the La Panza area.

1882, San Luis Obispo County
Exhumation of Chinese remains for shipment to China allowed only if performed at night (Ochs 1970).

1882, near San Luis Obispo
Chinese laborers under contract to Ah Luis working on the Laguna land reclamation and drainage project (Leonard 1981).

1882, May 8, Washington D.C.
Chines Exclusion Act approved by Congress. This law suspended the immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years. Teachers, students, travelers and merchants were exempted from the act. The naturalization of Chinese was prohibited.

1883, San Luis Obispo County
Chinese laborers employed to build new wagon road between Port Harford and Avila. Replaced old horse-car railroad. (Leonard 1981).

1883, San Luis Obispo
Seven inch diameter cast iron pipe installed to replace the sheet iron pipes of the San Luis Obispo Water (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1883, February 09, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo tribune reports that the City Hospital is employing Chinese as cooks (Ochs 1970).

1883, June, San Luis Obispo
Chinese wash houses go on strike to protest a raise in the quarterly tax (Ochs 1970).

1884, La Panza, San Luis Obispo County
Chinese miners expelled from the La Panza Mining District (Leonard 1981).

1884, San Luis Obispo County
Chinese complete wagon road between Port Harford and Avila (Leonard 1981).

1885, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis' store on the corner of Chorro and Palm was moved to the south side of Palm Street. New brick Ah Luis Store built on the north side of the corner of Chorro and Palm streets. Bricks used were from Ah Luis' brickyard in San Luis Obispo (Leonard 1981). Ah Louis entered into a contract with Albert Walker to build a store for him (Ochs 1970).

1885, April 25, San Luis Obispo
The Andrews Hotel, located at the southwest corner of Monterey and Osos Streets, burns (Morrison and Haydon 1917).

1885, May 20, San Luis Obispo
A deed from Jose Castro to Ah Luis was recorded in County Deed Book T., p. 387. The parcel lay along the south side of Palm Street, commencing fifty and one half feet from the south east corner of Palm and Chorro (Leonard 1981).

1885, July 03, San Luis Obispo
Andrews Hotel, first grand hotel in San Luis Obispo, reopens its doors with a large party. The hotel stood at the corner of Monterey and Osos Streets (Nicholson 1980).

1885, November 17, San Luis Obispo
Ah Louis leaves for a six month visit to his native village in China (Wong 1987).

1886, January, San Luis Obispo
Anti-Chinese feeling in San Luis Obispo reaches its greatest height. Subscriptions for about $1000.00 reportedly raised for construction of a steam laundry to replace the Chinese (Ochs 1970).

1886, May 25, San Luis Obispo County
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks were approaching Paso Robles; that at least 1500 Chinese were currently employed, and that more were expected (Leonard 1981).

1886, June 18, San Luis Obispo
The steam laundry was completed. An announcement in the San Luis Obispo Tribune read: The Caucasian Steam Laundry is now open for business under the management of Mr. C.H. Weaver. A wagon will call at the residences. As washing will be done at low rates, the opportunity is given to show how earnest the people are in their expressions for the removal of the Chinese (Ochs 1970:22).

1887, October 28, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune observes that: The Chinese have a monopoly of the laundry business in San Luis Obispo, and as a consequence they possess a gall equal to that of a highwayman's horse. A good Caucasian laundry, conducted properly, ought to do well in the City, but it wouldn't (Ochs 1970:23).

1887, November 12, San Luis Obispo County
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that 2,000 Chinese had been employed on the railroad during the summer of 1887 (Leonard 1981).

1887, December 25, Port Harford
Fire destroys the warehouse, 11 railcars, and 500 feet of the wharf. This was a major setback for the Pacific Coast Railway that operated the wharf.

1888, March, Templeton, San Luis Obispo County
Work on the southern Pacific Railroad halted at Templeton (Leonard 1981).

1888, May 4, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that Ah Luis had been away for about nineteen months, and no one in San Luis Obispo knew his whereabouts (Leonard 1981).

1888, October 1, Washington D.C.
Scott Act approved by Congress. This law prohibited the return to the United States of any Chinese laborer who went back to China. At the time of its passage, over 20,000 Chinese visiting China held valid reentry permits. These permits were declared void (Nee 1973).

1888, October 26, Templeton, San Luis Obispo County
Work on the Southern Pacific Railroad begins again with 150 Chinese and 100 white laborers (Leonard 1981).

1888, December 7, Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County
800 Chinese reported working on the Southern Pacific Railroad near Santa Margarita. Chinese cooks were in use with the work gangs (Leonard 1981).

1889, San Francisco
Ah Luis married Gon Ying (Leonard 1981).

1889, January, San Luis Obispo County
Work stopped on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

1889, October 15, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that Ah Luis had returned to San Luis Obispo after an absence of two years (Leonard 1981).

1890, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis moved his brickyard from its original location near Center Street in San Luis Obispo to the saddle between San Luis Mountain and Bishop's Peak, near what is now La Entrada and

Ramona Streets. Ah Luis was also establishing vegetable gardens in various areas around San Luis Obispo during the early 1890's (Leonard 1981).

1890, January, San Luis Obispo
The Board of Health receives several complaints regarding the disposal of soap suds and dirty water in vacant lots near the washouses. No action appears to have been taken (Ochs 1970).

1890, Spring, Port San Luis
Lighthouse opens at Port San Luis(Krieger 1988).

1892, May 5, Washington D.C.
Geary Act approved by Congress. This law extended the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for 10 years (Nee 1973).

1892, August 5, Cuesta, San Luis Obispo County
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that William Sandercock was employing local people building roads from the Cuesta to the ends of several proposed tunnels (Leonard 1981).

1892, October 18, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported the contract to build the railroad from Santa Margarita to San Luis Obispo Depot had gone to the George Stone Company (Leonard 1981).

1893, April 14, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reported that the Southern Pacific Railroad was progressing, and that Chinese were being employed as cooks (Leonard 1981).

1893, August 25, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reports that an ordinance has been passed to require hotels, restaurants and laundries to install greasetraps and suitable catchbasins (Ochs 1970).

1894, San Luis Obispo County
J.M. Baumgartner, Deputy for Internal Revenue, registered 261 Chinese in San Luis Obispo County (Nicholson 1980).

1894, March 09, San Luis Obispo
The San Luis Obispo Tribune reports that someone has attempted to blow up Sam Lee's adobe laundry (Ochs 1970).

1894, May 04, San Luis Obispo
The Southern Pacific Railroad reaches San Luis Obispo (Leonard 1981).

1897, February 03, Sacramento
A bill is introduced in the legislature for the construction of a polytechnic school in San Luis Obispo. Although it passed the legislature, this bill was vetoed by Governor James Budd in April 1897 (Krieger 1988).

1900, San Luis Obispo County
Ah Luis operated eight vegetable gardens employing Chinese workers. The largest of these was in the Edna Valley. Stables in Edna Valley raised work horses. A stable behind the store in San Luis Obispo housed at least one of his race horses (Leonard 1981).

1900, March 21, Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County
Oil discovered near Arroyo Grande in the Huasna Valley by the Puente Oil company (Best 1981).

1901, January 09, Gaviota, Santa Barbara County
The Southern Pacific Railroad was completed between San Francisco and Los Angeles. This closed an area called "The Gap" (Best 1981).

1901, March 01, Sacramento
Governor Budd signs a new bill establishing the California Polytechnic School at San Luis Obispo (Krieger 1988).

1901, March 31, Gaviota, Santa Barbara County
Regular Southern Pacific train service begins through "The Gap" (Best 1981).

1901, December 07, Gaviota, Santa Barbara County
Southern Pacific rail service resumes through "The Gap" after several derailments caused a complete rebuild between Santa Barbara and Gaviota.

1904, San Luis Obispo
Carnegie Library built.

1904, April 27, Washington D.C.
The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was extended indefinitely by the Congress (Nee 1973). This continued the official descrimination practiced against Chinese since 1882.

1910, San Luis Obispo
Ah Luis sold his brick yard. Vegetable gardens were being turned to seed production (Leonard 1981).

1924, Washington D.C.
Immigration Act of 1924 passed by Congress. This law prohibited Chinese women from entering the United States. Prior to passage of this law, wives of merchants and American born women were allowed to enter (Nee 1973).

1943, December 13, Washington D.C.
Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Acts. This law repealed all previous laws dealing with exclusion and deportation of Chinese aliens. It granted naturalization rights to Chinese aliens and set an immigration quota (Nee 1973).